AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy, comprising:

   (a) obtaining a urine sample;

   (b) contacting said sample with a reagent comprising an anti-megsin protein antibody;

   (c) measuring the amount of megsin protein bound to said anti-megsin protein antibody; and

   (d) comparing said amount with the megsin protein amount present in a control urine sample from a healthy individual ; and

   (e) diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy when said amount of bound megsin protein is higher than that in the control sample.

2. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy of claim 1, wherein the anti-megsin protein antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

6. (Previously Presented) A reagent for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy, which comprises a~~n~~ a first anti-megsin protein antibody that recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, and a second antibody that recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11, wherein said first anti-megsin protein antibody is bound to the surface of a granule.

7. (Previously Presented) The reagent for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy of claim 6, wherein the first and second anti-megsin protein antibodies are both monoclonal antibodies.

8. – 11. (Canceled)

12.   (Currently Amended) A method for detecting megsin protein in a biological specimen, comprising the following steps of:

(i)   contacting said biological specimen with a solid granule, wherein a first anti-megsin protein antibody is bound to the surface of said granule to ~~for~~ form a first antibody megsin protein complex;

(ii)   contacting said granule with a second anti-megsin protein antibody labeled with a marker molecule to obtain first antibody megsin protein-second antibody complex; and,

(iii)   detecting the megsin protein by detection of marker molecule in the complex obtained in step (ii),

wherein said first antibody recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, and said second antibody recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.

13.   (Original) The method for detection of claim 12, wherein the first anti-megsin protein antibody and the second anti-megsin protein antibody are both monoclonal antibodies.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Original) The method for detection of claim 12, wherein the biological specimen is urine.

16.   (Original) The method for detection of claim 12, wherein the biological specimen is blood.

17.   (Previously Presented) A kit for detecting megsin proteins, which comprises the following elements:

(a)   a solid magnetic granule for detecting megsin protein in a biological specimen, wherein an anti-megsin protein antibody recognizing a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12 is bound to the surface of the granule;

(b)   a magnet; and

(c)   an anti-megsin protein antibody labeled with a marker molecule, wherein said antibody recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Previously Presented) The method for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy of claim 1, wherein the mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy is IgA nephropathy or minimal-change nephritic syndrome.